

**REMARKS**

Claims 6-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

**Prior Art Rejections**

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Smith et al. in view of Forrester. Applicants traverse these rejections because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. Specifically, Smith et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least “applying a clamp to a first portion of a self-supporting first fiber optic cable” in claims 6 and 12. In addition, one of skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of Smith and Forrester to arrive at the claimed invention.

The Examiner asserts that the clamp is cable support 21 and clamp 22, the fiber optic cable is communications cable 18 and the bail is strand 12. However, cable support 21 cannot be the claimed clamp because it is not connected to a bail (or strand 12). Likewise, clamp 22 is not connected to the cable 18. For at least these reasons, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the prior art rejections.

In addition, as the Examiner concedes, the cable in Smith et al. is supported by a strand 12 (or messenger), and therefore is not a self supporting cable. In order to make up for this deficiency, the Examiner refers to col. 1, lines 9-11 of Forrester for providing the reason to use an ADSS cable, i.e., “strength and application in close proximity to a power line.” However, in Smith et al. the communications cable 18 is already right next to the power cable 16. The Examiner then argues that the circuitry of figure 1 of Smith must be isolated from the public, unfiltered, electrical power line to households or industry and that therefore, it would be obvious to apply the ADSS cable around the enclosure without the voltage line needed for an ONU, as

taught by Forrester to the method of Smith in order to avoid crosstalk from the electrical power line.

However, even if the Examiner is correct about keeping the cable away from the power line, that does not mean that one of skill in the art eliminate the strand 12, which is used to support the cable.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. in view of Forrester et al. or AAPA. Applicants traverse these rejections because the cited references fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations for the same reasons as described above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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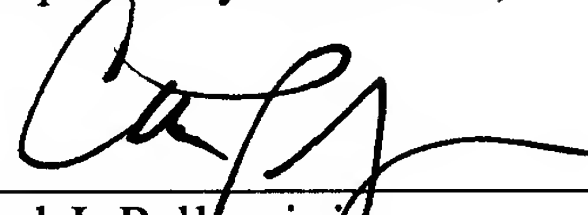
WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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